



Drug Use and the Homeless Population:

The present analysis examines drug use among the homeless population by drug type. Initial analysis determined that approximately 7 percent (n=56) of Maricopa County adult arrestees self-reported being homeless at the time of their arrest. The percentage of homeless and non-homeless arrestees testing positive for alcohol was not significantly significant, with 10.4 percent of homeless and 9.1 percent of non-homeless arrestees testing positive for recent alcohol use. Nearly 44 percent of homeless arrestees tested positive for marijuana use compared to 38 percent of non-homeless arrestees. While less than 5 percent of the non-homeless population tested positive for opiate use, nearly 8 percent of homeless arrestees tested positive for the drug. The most notable differences between the two groups involves cocaine and methamphetamine use. Just over 33 percent of homeless arrestees tested positive for cocaine compared to 17 percent of non-homeless arrestees; 47.9 percent of homeless arrestees tested positive for methamphetamine compared to 39.9 percent of non-homeless arrestees.